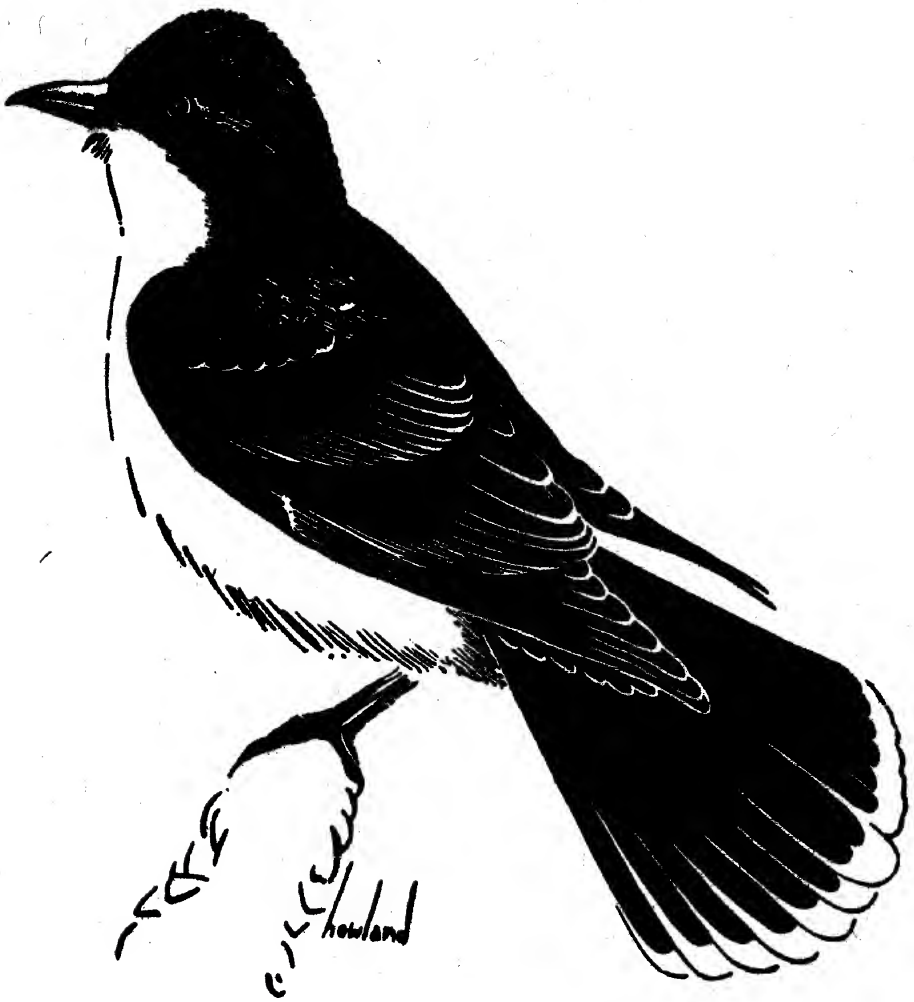
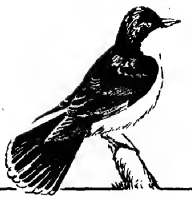
The KINGBIRD



VOLUME IV, No. 2 JULY • 1954

FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

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NOTICE

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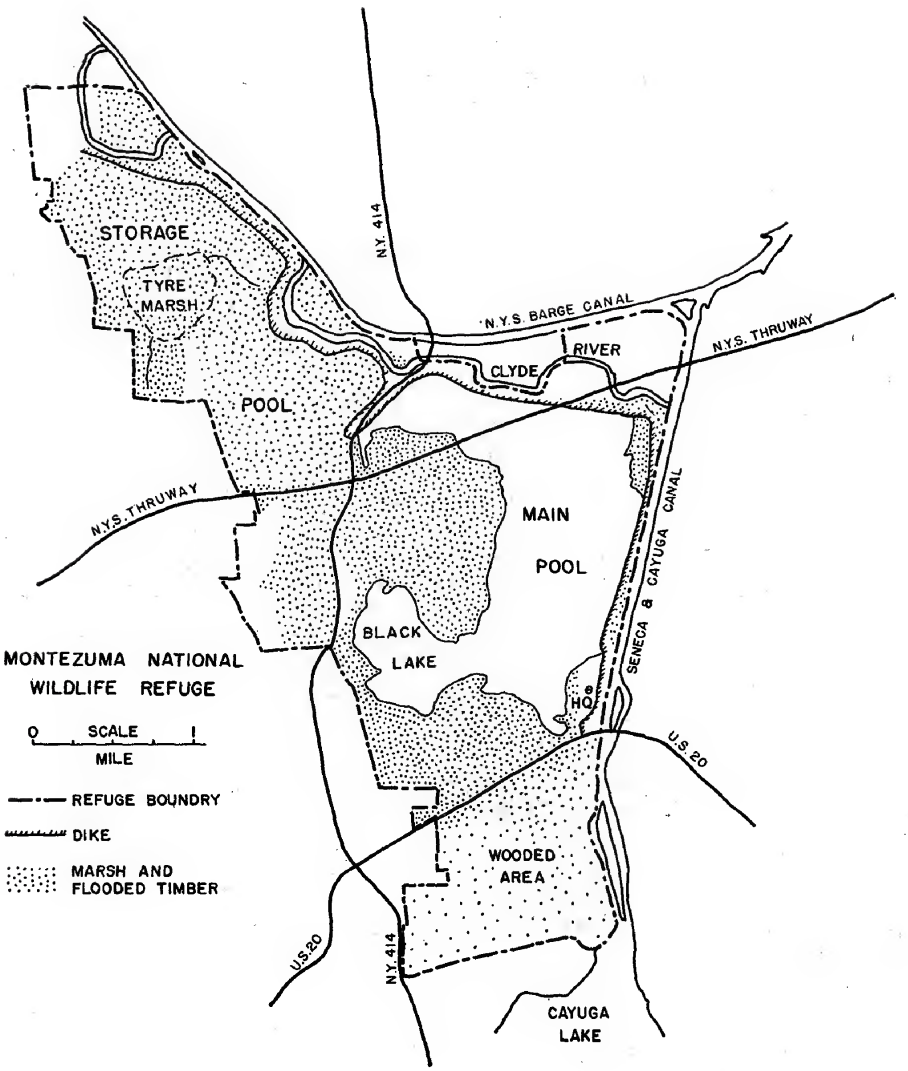
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POOL
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N.Y.S. THRUWAY
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MAIN POOL
BLACK LAKE
SENECA & CAYUGA CANAL
HQ
U.S. 20
WOODED AREA
U.S. 20
N.Y. 414
CAYUGA LAKE
MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
0 SCALE 1
MILE
REFUGE BOUNDRY
DIKE
MARSH AND FLOODED TIMBER

THE MONTEZUMA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

OLIVER H. HEWITT

Only a century ago, one of the finest wildlife areas in the northeast was a part of New York's heritage. Vast fresh-water marshes stretched northward from the foot of Cayuga Lake, fed by the Seneca and Clyde Rivers and their tributaries. The Indians called the marshes "Squagonna", which, loosely translated, means "Home of the Big Mosquito". White men rechristened them "Montezuma" for no apparent reason. The name of the Aztec king seems out of place in the land of the Cayugas.

The great marshes were rich in waterfowl and sport fishes. Hunters came from as far as Boston and New York City to shoot ducks and shorebirds. Early fish stories recommend the bass and pike of Montezuma ponds. It is unfortunate that we have little knowledge of the enormous numbers of birds and beasts which lived in the marshes as the Indians knew them.

But such great marshes were thought to be obstacles in the path of progress and development. The history of Montezuma is similar to that of other great marshes such as the Horicon in Wisconsin and the Klamath in Oregon: early drainage and, later, partial restoration. The Montezuma marshes lay in the way of travel between Albany and Buffalo. The possibility of putting the fertile muck soils under the plow encouraged several early, unsuccessful attempts to drain the marshes. In 1852, a committee of the State Legislature reported that "The immense body of land is in the heart of the most fertile, beautiful and prosperous part of the state, and is capable of being made itself of the most productive and most valuable quality, instead of being, as it now is, not only utterly unprofitable and totally useless to its owners, but an unsightly blemish upon the fairest portion of our State, a colossal nuisance, and a source of continued and wide spreading pestilence to the surrounding country."

It was not until completion of the N. Y. State Barge Canal changed the course of the Seneca River, about 1911, that the major part of the Montezuma Marshes were drained. By the mid-twenties, even that part which is now the National Wildlife Refuge was dry. In a Cornell thesis written in 1929, Claude W. Leister says "Today, the Seneca River, at the south end of the marsh, is some eight or ten feet below its former level and the old back-waters running into the marsh are dry. Black Lake, the largest body of open water, is almost dry. Onions are being raised on much of the former marsh land and it seems to be only a matter of time until that prosaic vegetable will replace the flowing cat-tail."

Thanks to S. C. Vanderbilt of Clyde, a portion of the western arm of the Montezuma Marshes, called the "Sink Hole Marsh" has been preserved with few changes. His marsh provides an economic return from muskrats, cat-tail and waterfowl hunting. It remains today a haven for many forms of marsh wildlife, where the student can still observe the network of creeks, ponds and "islands" as they existed years ago.

Development of the Refuge

The area immediately north of Cayuga Lake was never successfully farmed, because of shallow muck and a stubbornly high water table. Yet its value to waterfowl, to marsh birds and to other wildlife had been lost. In 1937, the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey (now the Fish and Wildlife Service) purchased some of this area, and established the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. During the following four years, more land was acquired until the Refuge area totalled 5819 acres. About eight miles of earthen dikes were built, with deep channels alongside. West of Highway 414, a storage pool of 1200 acres was created, into which Black Brook and White Brook flow. Water levels are controlled by two concrete spillways. When needed, water from the storage pool can be directed into the main pool east of Route 414. Filling of the storage pool drowned a large area of elm and maple woodlands and recharged Tyre Marsh, creating a very productive habitat for wood duck. In the drowned timber also nest other birds which might well be absent, such as Bald Eagles, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Brown Creepers, and occasionally Hooded Mergansers. It is in this area, between the dike and the Clyde River that one finds nesting Prothonotary Warblers.

The main pool comprises 1500 acres of excellent habitat, with wide open expanses of shallow water, great areas of cat-tail and bulrush, and lowland timber. Near the main entrance on the south side are the headquarters, including the familiar observation tower, 115 feet high, offices, shops and the home of the Refuge Manager, Lawrence S. Smith.

Over the reflooded marshlands many species of aquatic plants soon flourished to provide food and cover for wildlife. In addition to the widespread cat-tail and bulrush are bur-reeds, rice cut-grass, smartweeds, pondweeds, coontail, and great quantities of duckweeds. Natural vegetation is occasionally supplemented with plantings of sago, wild celery, wild rice, and millet. Surrounding uplands are plowed and planted to grains for the thousands of ducks and geese that flock to the refuge during migration.

Management

Management of the refuge is directed toward its main objective—the maintenance of the best habitat for breeding and migrating waterfowl. Water level control by an adequate system of dikes and spillways is of prime importance. Contrary to popular belief, the N. Y. State Thruway, which was built across the northwest corner of the main pool in 1953, will improve the possibilities for water level manipulation. While the Thruway may be somewhat of a nuisance to visiting naturalists, there is no reason to believe that it will reduce the wildlife values of the refuge.

Muskrat populations must be maintained at a stage which will allow an interspersion of cat-tail and open water. To accomplish this, muskrats are harvested each spring in pre-determined numbers. Private trappers do the job on a share-crop basis. Raccon, fox, mink and opossum are taken in season in order to reduce predation. Refuge products such as logs, firewood, poles and some crops are sold in quantities consistent with the primary refuge

objectives. Cat-tails are cut for chair bottoms and cooperage where growth is too heavy for ideal waterfowl habitat. Grazing and agricultural lands may be rented to private individuals under Special Use Permits. Twenty-five per cent of net income from such sources are returned to Wayne, Seneca and Cayuga Counties, in which the refuge is located.

Carp, which destroy aquatic vegetation and roil the water, have been controlled whenever practicable. In 1952, carp were eliminated from the storage pool by rotenone poisoning. The results were gratifying. A marked increase in the use of this area by breeding waterfowl occurred the following year. Unfortunately carp control is expensive and difficult.

Wildlife

Jesuit missionaries who were the first white men to see the Montezuma Marshes, expressed great wonder at the abundance of wildlife. Their records state that "the sunlight over the marshes was actually cut off by the clouds of millions of ducks and geese and the woods abounded with deer. Fish were plentiful." Into the early part of the present century, waterfowl and shorebirds were killed by the boatload for city markets.

Our knowledge of wildlife on the original Montezuma would be almost nil, were it not for the late Foster Parker. Born and brought up near Cayuga, on the edge of the marsh, Mr. Parker was a keen and reliable ornithologist. He knew the marsh better than anyone else. Many of his observations and specimens, as recorded in Eaton's "Birds of New York", constitute the only information we have on certain species occuring as summer residents in New York.

Ornithological records show that no less than 247 species of birds have been recorded as breeding there. The possibility of seeing some rare or accidental visitor has always excited bird watchers at Montezuma. Over the years, such species as Eared Grebe, White Pelican, Glossy Ibis, European Teal, Avocet, Parasitic Jaeger and Little Gull have been spotted; some of them more than once. During the last four or five years several species of ducks, rare as breeders in New York, have returned to raise broods in the improved habitat of the refuge. These include Gadwall, Shoveler, Redhead, Ruddy Duck and Hooded Merganser. The flight of ducks, herons and egrets between the storage pool and main pool of an August evening is a thrilling sight. And there is always the opportunity to see nesting, such uncommon small birds as Prothonotary, Cerulean, Golden-winged and Mourning Warblers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Brown Creepers.

The abundant wildlife will provide hours of delight. With a little patience, one can observe intimately the family life of Black Ducks, Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal; Coots, Gallinules and Pied-billed Grebes; Common Terns and Black Terns and, of course, the Bald Eagles. Often one may watch deer, raccoons, and muskrats with their young.

Fortunate are we in New York that this great section of Wildlife paradise has been restored as the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. It will always be one of the finest natural areas in the country.

Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

HARRIS'S SPARROW IN NEW YORK STATE

WINSTON W. BROCKNER

The Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) is a large sparrow which breeds from Churchill, Manitoba northwest to Great Bear Lake, in an area of stunted spruce at the edge of the tundra (F. C. Lincoln, 1950 *Migration of Birds, Circular* 16, *U. S. Dept. Interior, P.* 43). This species winters from southeastern Nebraska and northwestern Missouri across eastern Kansas and Oklahoma and through a narrow section of central Texas. Its normal migration route is then almost due south. In the east, migrants are noted with fair regularity to the western shore of Lake Michigan. Further east they are accidental or sporadic in occurrence.

In a review of Audubon Field Notes from 1948 to 1954 six recent sporadic occurrences from the northeast are documented. (Vol. 3, No. 1, 14, Toronto, Ontario Oct. 1 and 3, 1948; Vol. 3, No. 4, 203, Burlington, Vt., Jan. 1948 to May 1949; Vol. 6, No. 1, 9, Glastonbury, Conn., immature, Oct. 10, 1951; Vol. 6, No. 4, 245, Kirkland Lake, Ont., May 23, 1952; Vol. 7, No. 4, 272, St. Thomas, Ontario, Jan. 1, 1953 and Pt. Pelee, Ontario, May 23, 1953.)

A seventh recent record from the northeast appears to constitute the first New York State record (Prothonotary, Vol. 17, No. 12, Dec. 1951). Mrs. Charles W. Avery of Hamburg, Erie Co., first discovered an immature bird at her feeding station on November 8, 1951. Several other observers, including myself, observed the bird there until its departure on Nov. 11.

These records show three birds first appeared in October, one in November, two in January and two in May. The bird at Burlington, Vt., wintered and left again in mid-May. Perhaps our winter feeders in the northeast may lure more birds away from their recently parched southern wintering areas.

Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

SANCTUARIES ON INSTITUTION GROUNDS

ERMA J. FISK

Setting up a sanctuary on the grounds of a private institution is so simple that I do not see why every town that boasts a Federation member could not have one on the grounds of a school, church or hospital.

All that is needed, actually, is a shrubby area—on land already owned—a birdbath or pool, a feeder and birdboxes, and the initial interest of one or two individuals. From there the project is almost self-maintaining. It may remain a small one, designed to bring peace, as in a church close or hospital garden. Or it may grow to almost any size with the varying interests and abilities of the participants in various years. The financial outlay is small, the educational values high. They are needed to complement the growth of of our urban areas.

My institutional sanctuary is at the Park School in Buffalo. We are fortunately situated on an old farm which in the past few years has been surrounded by housing and industrial expansion. Its grounds offer an excellent informal outdoor laboratory for nature-minded members of the faculty,

and in discussing its future, one day, a teacher sighed—"If only there were some way to make our land a refuge so that we could preserve the treasure that is here, and perhaps even teach the town children to use our grounds, instead of abusing them." "Why not?" asked another member in the room. The fact was as simple as that.

With the backing of the local Audubon and Conservation Societies, the interest of an athletic coach who had studied forestry and two or three other teachers, the formation of a 'Middle School Grounds Committee' and the appearance of three of its 12 year old members at a PTA meeting to explain their project, the loan of a tractor, a sign, the *Park School Wildlife Refuge* was established. The whole school turned out to plant shrubs from the Soil Conservation Service. Bird houses and feeders were built in shop; breeding birds noted and protected; trails marked, censuses taken, and the property opened to Audubon members and qualified groups. The Senior Class gave a farewell gift of trees with the idea of creating an arboretum, and parents were urged to do the same. This spring a second shrub border and pine seedlings from N. Y. State and the U. S. Soil Conservation Service will dress up a bare field—again with the students doing the work.

Such a project generates its own momentum. Its values extend to the whole community. Garden Clubs, youth groups and individuals can contribute to it and enjoy it.

Many churches, schools, hospitals and town parks have a corner which could be transformed with little effort and small financing. As bulldozers crunch their way through our native growth, as thruways and shopping centers and housing developments displace marsh, field and hedgerow, some way must be found to compensate for the loss to wildlife—to bring conservation practices to the notice of the town fathers. Who better to do it than members of the Federation, either individually or as an organization?

20 Berkley Place, Buffalo 9, N. Y.

YOUR PRESIDENT SAYS . . .

I hope that each member club has been able to follow the suggestion of the State Book Committee, by taking a breeding bird census in their area, and that they will submit a report to Audubon Field Notes, for inclusion with similar censuses from other localities. By taking part in such a project one can learn at first hand how a breeding bird population of a given acreage can be accurately determined, and thus apply this knowledge to one's own favorite areas in future years.

Time is fast approaching for our annual meeting in Ithaca, August 28-29, and I hope that a great many members may find it possible to attend both the Saturday meeting and banquet, as well as the Sunday field trip. It is always a satisfaction to meet old friends and to make new acquaintances at such a gathering.

HAROLD D. MITCHELL.

ERNEST GRANT TABOR, NATURALIST – 1864-1954

ALLEN H. BENTON

The naturalist, Ernest G. Tabor, died on Easter Sunday (April 18, 1954) in Meridian, New York, at the age of 89. He was not a professional biologist. His list of published papers is small, including a half dozen contributions to *Bird Lore,* a note or two in the old *Ornithologist* and *Oologist,* and a note in *The Kingbird.* His papers, though short, were masterpieces of keen observation, and have been cited by such ornithologists as A. C. Bent, Frank Chapman, and O. S. Pettingill. His discovery of the nest of a dickcissel in central New York in 1937, the first known nesting in the state since 1865 was a tribute to his ability to recognize the unusual. In 1948, at the ago of 84, he assisted me in a survey of the breeding birds of Cayuga county, and took great delight in journeying to the old haunts from which he had been away so long.

In the later years of the last century and the first years of this, Tabor was well known in ornithological circles. He exchanged specimens with many noted ornithologists, and for a time belonged to the American Ornithologists Union. He was a friend of Dr. Frank Chapman, and loved to recount the story of their photographic expeditions to Otter Lake, near Meridian. On one such expedition, they removed a small segment of the Otter Lake marsh, for transplantation to the American Museum of Natural History. In 1906, when Tabor became clerk of the board of supervisors of Cayuga county, he was forced to give up most of his nature activities, and it was a quarter of a century before he was again able to give much time and energy to this hobby.

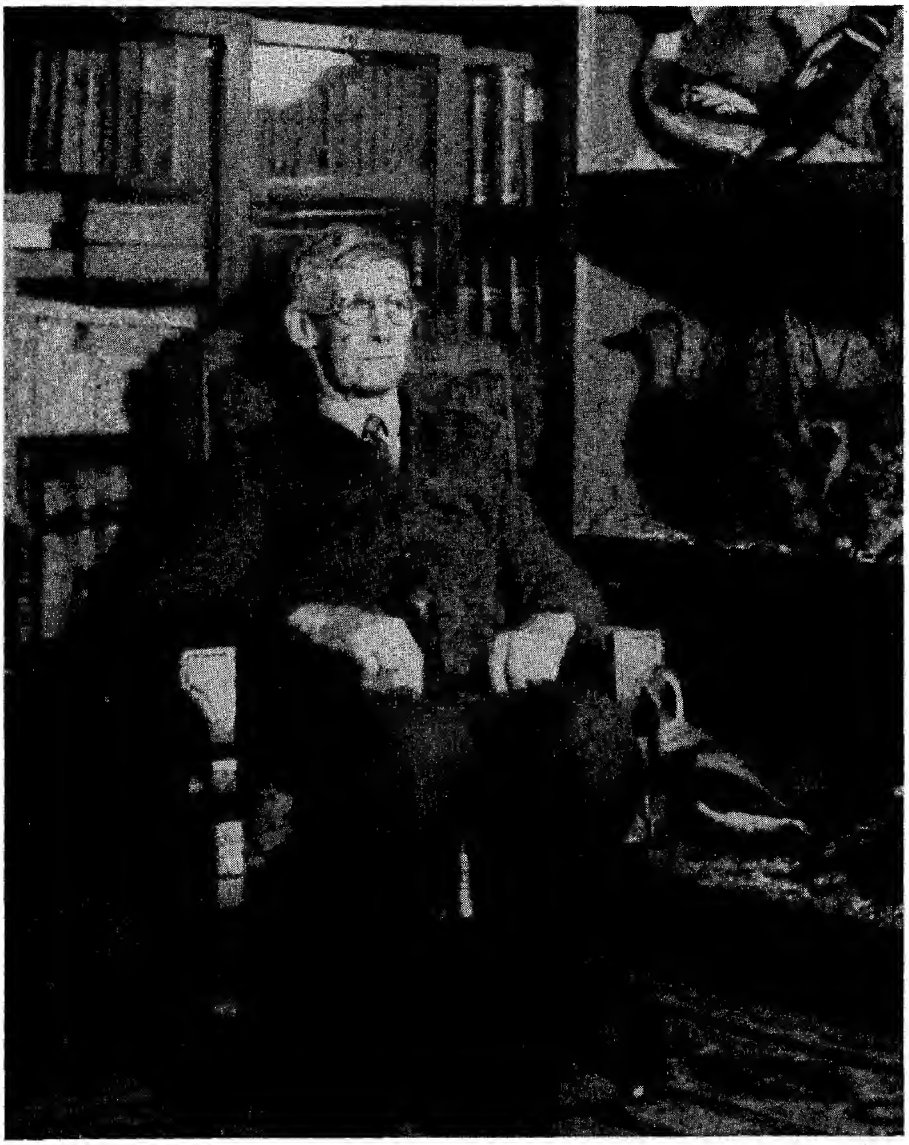
Besides these contributions to science, Tabor educated several generations of young Meridianites in the wonders of nature. His home—filled with mounted birds and nests, mammals, and other fascinating objects—was a mecca for the children of the village. He knew nature and loved all phases of it. He knew where the rare birds nested, where the orchids bloomed in the bogs, and he was liberal in dispensing the fruits of his years of study to those who were interested.

In connection with his love for wild things, Tabor early took up nature photography. With inexpensive equipment he photographed everything which would sit still. Many of his photographs were used in E. H. Eaton's *Birds of New York,* and some of them were made into slides to be used by the State Museum for educational purposes. Eighteen of his best pictures were published in *Bird Lore* between 1899 and 1905.

Thoreau said of himself that he had traveled widely around Concord. It might equally well be said of Ernest Tabor that he traveled widely around Meridian. Like Thoreau, he took occasional trips to the mountains, in his case the Adirondacks. Unlike Thoreau, he was in no sense withdrawn from his fellow man. He was gregarious, in his youth a baseball player of note. He had many consuming interests, but natural history was always at the top of the list. In later years, when old age prevented active field work, he expended his abundant energy in working on a collection of stamps, coins, and Indian relics.

There are many capable professional biologists in America today; there are all too few amateurs with the breadth of vision, the ability to observe and record data, the enthusiasm to give the love of nature to others, and the persistence to study one area or one species, which would permit them to make real contributions to science and humanity. Such a one was Ernest Grant Tabor, an amateur naturalist in the finest sense.

New York State College for Teachers, Albany, N. Y.



ERNEST G. TABOR

FEDERATION NEWS

The editor, Vol. 4, No. 1 page 5 of *The Kingbird,* made the *State Bird Book Committee* the object of slight criticism with regard to the acceptability of breeding records. The committee recognizes the great value of the Breeding Bird Census as an aid in determining population size. The criteria for evidence of breeding were not intended, though unfortunately perhaps implied, to be applied to the breeding bird censuses. These criteria would be applied by the committee to birds near limits of their breeding ranges and to rare birds.

The *State Book Committee,* at their meeting in Syracuse on June 26, decided to hold an open meeting on Friday August 27 at Ithaca in Fernow Hall, Room 122, at 1 p. m. Member Club Statistitians, Research Committee Chairman, Regional Editors (past and present) and interested members are urged to attend this meeting to discuss such problems as criteria for the new state bird book and problems of *Kingbird* censureship, and content.

Dr. Peter Paul Kellogg, Conservation Department, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. has made the deadline for papers to be read at the Aug. 28-29 meeting, *August* 1. Those planning to read papers at the meeting should send in the title of their talk with a short description of its content. They should also state whether or not there will be illustrations with the paper. If so, please state whether these illustrations are movies or slides and give their size so that the proper projectors will be ready.

KINGBIRD TIMETABLE

Regional Report Coverage	*Deadline to Kingbird*	*Approx. Publ. Date*	*Issue Number*
Dec., Jan., Feb., March	April 15	May 15	No. 1—May Issue
April, May	June 15	July 15	No. 2—July Issue
June, July	Sept. 15	Oct. 15	No. 3—Oct. Issue
Aug., Sept. Oct., Nov.	Dec. 15	Jan. 15	No. 4—Jan. Issue

ANNUAL MEETING

Ithaca, N. Y. — August 28 - 29

Those reading papers please write Dr. P. P. Kellogg, before **August 1,** giving title, time, and type of illustrations — if used.

REGIONAL REPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS APRIL AND MAY

A few wintering birds lingered into May. A snowy owl was seen near Watertown on May 31, Tree Sparrows were seen near Rochester to May 31, White-throated Sparrows to May 27 at Elmira, May 26 at Avoca, and at Syracuse to May 31. White-crowned Sparrows lingered to May 23 in region 3 and until the 25th. in region 9.

Two species of southern herons showed up north of Long Island this spring. A Little Blue Heron on April 8 in Tioga Co. (Region 4) and at Hudson (Region 8) two American Egrets were seen on May 27. Regions 2 and 3 also reported Egrets.

Brant have appeared with more regularity in the past few years. This spring they were reported from Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and passed across the State from May 8 to May 30.

The Broad-winged Hawk migration near Rochester reached a peak of 3545 individuals on April 22 (normal) and near Syracuse the greatest number of Sharp-shinned Hawks was seen on April 18. Two Golden Eagles were reported from near Rochester and 1 near Branchport (Region 3). Elsewhere (I have not seen Region 1 report to date) the hawk migration was listed as, "no hawk flight" or "poor".

Upland Plovers, an interesting breeding sandpiper of our rolling grassy uplands, were reported from Regions 3 (Waterloo, Dryden, Italy Hill), 5, 6, and 10. An unusual number of spring Golden Plovers was seen near Rochester.

Warm weather in late April brought some migrants in a little early but a cool, wet spell in the middle of May slowed things down to normal and some species were even a little late by mid-May, such as Nighthawk, Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers. The weather and the small land bird migration did not cooperate to give New York's birders bushels of birds in single trees. From Keesville, in the Champlain Valley (Region 7) came the only report of a great warbler wave. The other areas called it generally spotty with normal numbers of species but smaller numbers of individuals.

Rarities were a Barrow's Golden-eye at Bear Mountain Park (Region 9), Kentucky Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers and White-eyed Vireos in central and western New York.

The rather remarkable southern invasion continues in central and northwestern New York and is summarized below.

SUMMARY OF SOUTHERN INVASION SPRING 1954

Regions	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
American Egret		(5)	3					2		
Little Blue Heron				1						
Turkey Vulture			inc.		inc.			1		1
Black Vulture										1
Barn Owl		4								sev.
Red-headed Woodpecker		few	6	1	few	nor.			3	1
Tufted Titmouse			sev.					1	2	
Bewick's Wren		1								
Carolina Wren		3	1		5		1		few	?
Mockingbird			1		1				1	
Blue-grey Gnatcatcher		inc.	inc.	inc.	3				2	reg.
Loggerhead Shrike					2					1 or 2
White-eyed Vireo		1	1							
Prothonotary Warbler		3	1		5				2	4
Worm-eating "		1	3	1	1			1		rep.
Golden-winged "			inc.		inc.				?	?
Blue-winged "		2	inc.		1				?	?
Cerulean "					15				2	
Yellow-throated "		1	1		1					rep.
Kentucky "		1	1							
Yellow-breasted Chat		1	inc.	1	1		2		1	
Orchard Oriole			1						1	

inc.—increase; sev.—several; nor.—normal; reg.—regular; rep.—report; numbers—individuals; *—Regional Report from Region 1 not seen.

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

The heavy snow of late March remained on the ground for the first five days of April. The month warmed up rapidly thereafter, with an exceptionally warm spell from the 19th to the 24th which accelerated the spring migration notably. The warm weather ceased abruptly on May 3; in fact the first two days of May were the warmest of the entire month. Cool weather prevailed until the 23rd, very effectively putting a stop to what had started

to be an exceptionally early migration. Thus we find that most early May migrants were either very early or very late, depending upon whether they were reported before the May 3 cold wave set in.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons arrived on time and good numbers were reported, especially on the Niagara River. Double-crested Cormorants were unaccountably late, and less numerous than usual. Braunberns found a yellow-crowned Night Heron at Miller Beach on May 9, only the second record for this territory. Bitterns were late, other herons on time. Small groups of Whistling Swans were reported from all districts throughout April. The maximum count of Canada Geese was 25,000 estimated by the Axtells at Oak Orchard and Wolcottsville on April 22; a few Snow and Blue Geese were reported from the same district. Pintails at Wolcottsville reached a peak of 8000 on April 11. The last Harlequin Duck was seen at Niagara Falls April 18. Gadwalls, European Widgeons, and Shovellers were well distributed.

HAWKS — OWLS: There was a good hawk flight on April 20, 21, and 22. The most interesting single observation was that of Nathan, who, at Forest Lawn Cemetery on the 20th, counted 31 Sharp-Shins, 188 Broad-wings, 3 Ospreys, and 3 Pigeon Hawks flying over. This is without precedent, as most hawk flights skirt east of the city of Buffalo before striking north toward Lake Ontario. Mrs. McMurtrey reports two Hungarian Partridge from Wellsville May 14. Gallinules were on time, but rails were unaccountably late. The flight of Golden Plover was exceptionally good for Spring, the largest number reported being 72 on Grand Island on May 6 (Osgood). Greater Yellow-legs were as late as their smaller cousins had been early, not being seen until April 11. There was a strong flight of Pectorals. One Red-backed Sandpiper on April 20 (Walcottsville, Axtells) is the earliest ever recorded. A White-rumped Sandpiper reported from Miller Beach on May 9, was also without precedent as to date. Glaucous Gulls remained at the Falls until early May, but Iceland Gulls were not seen after April 17. Bonaparte's Gulls were very late in arriving, and their numbers were exceedingly low. Common Terns were first reported April 10 (very early). The last Snowy Owl was seen May 5. Scattering reports of Barn and Saw-whet Owls were received.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: An excellent example of the effect of the break from warm to cool weather on May 3 is provided by the Whip-poor-will and the Nighthawk. The former was a week early (April 20), the latter ten days late (May 21). Dr. Ogden reported an early Hummingbird at Alfred May 2 and a Wood Pewee on the 9th.

Short-billed Marsh Wrens are not nearly as numerous as they were ten years ago; this year in particular it has been a difficult bird to find, and the species was not reported until May 30. Mrs. McMurtrey writes of an encouraging increase in the Wellsville Bluebird population. The May thrushes were somewhat early. Gnatcatchers came in early (April 20 at Evans and St. Bonaventure) and many subsequent records were received. Loggerhead Shrikes seemed more numerous this year.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: A White-eyed Vireo, always a rarity here, broke all records by appearing in Delaware Park April 29 (Schaffner, Fish, Axtell). Both the Blue-headed Vireo seen at Olean on April 15 (Eaton) and the one in Delaware Park the following day (R. Axtell) broke our previous earliest record. Many Warblers arrived in late April and the first two days of May. Thereafter their migration was dammed up until the 22nd, when the weather finally broke somewhat and there was a good wave. Record breakers were the Western Palm (April 9), Worm-eating (May 1) and Cerulean (May 1); tying the previous record were Nashville (April 25), Magnolia (April 30), Parula (May 2), and Chestnut-sided (May 1). Also very early were Yellow (April 25), Northern Water-thrush (April 25), Blackburnian (April 26), Ovenbird (April 30), Prairie (May 5), and Canada (May 1). Chats were reported more often than ever before.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Several Orchard Orioles were recorded. Eaton reported an early Rose-breasted Brosbeak from Olean April 29, also stating that approximately 40 Red Crossbills were still there May 31. White-winged Crossbills were not reported after April 24 (Buffalo, Webster) and Evening Grosbeaks were last seen May 2 (five at Youngstown by Tulinoffs). Nathan recorded an early Lincoln's Sparrow from Delaware Park on May 1.

Clark S. Beardslee, 132 McKinley Ave., Kenmore, N. Y.

REGION 2 — GENESEE

This region consists of the counties of Monroe, Wayne and Livingston, the eastern halves of Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming, and the western portions of Ontario County. It is an area of level to hilly farmland interspersed with large to small wooded areas, several marshes and small lakes and bays. Large sections of the area are under constant cultivation, but the southern part of the region averages higher in elevation and is more heavily wooded, less cultivated.

The only prominent stream of the area is the Genesee River which flows north across the entire region, originating a short distance south of our border in Pennsylvania and emptying into Lake Ontario at Rochester. The Barge Canal crosses the region in an east-west direction just south of Rochester. Several small inland lakes are present—Conesus, Hemlock, Honeoye, Canadice and Silver. These lakes usually freeze over in January and February. Lake Ontario, which forms the northern boundary of our region, has several interesting Bays. The largest are Sodus, Irondequoit and Braddock Bays.

Elevation varies from about 248 feet above sea level at Lake Ontario to over 2000 ft. on the Allegheny Plateau in the south. The highest point in the region is Gannett Hill (2256 ft.) in the Town of South Bristol approximately 5 miles north of Naples, N. Y.

As one ascends the plateau toward the south the sub-carolinian bird fauna of the Ontario Lake Plain takes on a more sub-canadian aspect. Here on the higher hills and in the cool glens which cut the plateau may be found nesting Juncos, Hermit Thrushes, Magnolia Warblers and an occasional Blue-headed Vireo. Most of the trees are of the northern hardwoods and oak-hickory associations with white pine and hemlock the commonest conifers. Native Red Pine, larch and pitch pine occur in isolated stations. One of the largest stands of Red Pine in western New York occurs along the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park. Here is located a small colony of Pine Warblers. The spruce-fir association is confined in our area to small bogs and swampy areas. The most interesting ornithological areas are the Lake Ontario Shore, the Genesee River Valley, Bergen Swamp and the hilly areas to the south. The Lake Ontario shore is an excellent area to observe migrating and water birds while the other areas produce a wide variety of nesting birds. Shore Acres, a few miles north of Hilton, N. Y. along the lake shore, is one of the best shore bird areas in western New York. Here such rarities as Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Willets and Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been seen on migration. In this region the spring hawk flight and the fall duck migration are outstanding in number of species and individuals.

The two member clubs located in the region are the Genesee Ornithological Society and the Burroughs-Audubon Club, both with headquarters in Rochester. The Lake Ontario shore and the area around Rochester are the regions most thoroughly explored. We seldom receive reports from observers in the Genesee Valley, the southern section or Sodus Bay. We would greatly appreciate help in recording bird data from these areas.

During the first week of April we had a large quantity of snow, but despite this April averaged 2½ degrees above normal in the Rochester area. May was rather cold through the second and third weeks. Good flights of migrants occurred, however, during the first two days of May and during the last week. May averaged 1½ degrees below normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: The recently discovered Red-throated Loon migration (**Kingbird** Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 49, 1952) occurred in the latter part of April, the birds following the Lake Ontario shore westward. The height of this flight occurred on 4/25 with counts of several hundred. About 5 American Egrets seen in May; Least Bittern a few reports; Brant small numbers in May; one Snow Goose 4/4 and one Blue Goose 4/4 and again on 5/31; two European Teal on 4/25 and one on 5/16, all males, Rochester; King Eider — two on 4/15-25, male and female (or immature) near Rochester, one adult male on 5/16, Sodus Bay; one White Pelican 5/14 to 5/16 at Sodus Bay.

HAWKS — OWLS: The best hawk flight of the Spring was on 4/22 near Rochester with totals of 3545 Broad-winged and 634 Sharp-shinned; 5 Duck Hawks, 3 Pigeon Hawks and no Goshawks (numbers are estimates and counts) seen during May; one Golden Eagle 4/30 and one 5/2 near Rochester; Ruffed Grouse showed increasing reports; one King Rail 5/9 from Rochester. A very unusual flight of Golden Plovers (usually rare in spring) occurred from 4/21 to 5/1 with a high estimate of 210 on 5/1 at Rochester — flocks were seen moving east along the Lake Ontario shore. On the first date, 4/21 a flock of 100 (est.) was seen; the high count for Black-bellied Plovers occurred a little later on 5/16 with a count of 21; one Hudsonian Curley 5/29 at Rochester about the same time several hundred were reported near Buffalo. A few white-rumped Sandpipers in May; two unusual May Dowitcher records; a male Wilson's Phalarope (rare here) was seen 5/31 near Rochester; last date for Glaucous Gull 5/22; Black-backed Gull present to end of May; one immature Little Gull seen on 5/8 near Rochester; four Barn Owls reported near Rochester; last Snowy Owl date 5/31; we had normal flights of Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls in April along the Lake Ontario shore; seven Barred Owls 5/16 Sodus Bay.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: A few reports of Pileated, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers. The first and second of May produced quite a few early dates. It will be interesting to see if other areas also noted a great influx of migrants; first Crested Flycatcher 4/30; first Kingbird 5/1; first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 5/16; one Olive-sided Flycatcher 5/16; first Least Flycatcher 5/1; Acadian Flycatcher **none;** first Cliff Sparrow 4/6; three Carolina Wrens reported; our **first recent record for Bewick's Wren** 4/21 to 23 at Rochester; first Catbird and Wood Thrush 5/1; first Veery 4/30; first Olive-backed Thrush 5/3; Grey-cheeked Thrush a few in May; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher more than usual in late April; last Ruby-crowned Kinglet 5/30; no definite Mockingbird reports.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: First Blue-headed Vireo 4/21, last 5/28; a few reports of Philadelphia Vireo; our **first recent record** (Rochester) **of White-eyed Vireo** 5/2 (see Eaton, **Birds of N. Y.** Vol. 2, p. 376); Prothonotary Warbler two on 5/16, one on 5/23; Orange-crowned Warbler two on 5/20 near Rochester; Pine Warbler one on 4/20 near Rochester; Yellow Palm Warbler few reports in late April; ten Louisiana Waterthrushes on 5/15 Canandaigua Lake; Connecticut Warbler a few reports (this bird seems to appear about as often as Philadelphia Vireo); two Blue-winged Warbler reports from Rochester; our **first recent record for Rochester area for Yellow-throated Warbler** 5/15; one Yellow-breasted Chat 5/31 Rochester; one Kentucky Warbler 5/29 at Rochester; an estimated high of 1,000 Myrtle Warblers on 5/7 Rochester; first Parula and Chestnut-sided Warblers 5/1; first Bay-breasted Warbler 5/3.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: First Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 5/1; one to three Evening Grosbeaks seen in May; one White-winged Crossbill in May; no Red Crossbills seen; last Tree Sparrow 5/31 (very late here) Rochester; last Fox Sparrow 5/22 (very late) Rochester; last Lapland Longspur 5/9.

Harry Van Beurden, 246 Trement Street, Rochester 8, N. Y.

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

Region Three includes all of Chemung, Tompkins, Seneca, Schuyler, Yates and Steuben Counties, and that part of Cayuga County south of the Seneca River and of Ontario County east of Mud Creek and Routes 64 and 21 to the Yates County Line at Woodville.

The most conspicious feature of this area is the series of lakes which gives it the name of Finger Lakes. They vary in size from 40 mile long Cayuga to 11 mile long Owasco, and include Seneca (36 miles), Keuka (21 miles) and Canandaigua (16 miles). Skaneateles lies just outside the area. The lakes are narrow and deep, and consequently are slow in freezing over, affording open water for a large waterfowl population throughout most winters. The section of Region Three which contains these lakes (central and north) is marked by rolling hills, some of them fairly high.

The southern third of the region is characterized by higher hills and extensions of the Allegheny Plateau, particularly in the south-western corner of Steuben County. This area is crossed diagonally by the Canisteo and Cohocton Rivers, which unite at Corning to form the Chemung.

The Finger Lakes drain to the north, and the area along the northern border of Region 3 is characterized by swamps, ponds and fertile muck lands. The Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge is found here, a mecca for waterfowl and shorebirds during migration. There are other large streams in addition to those already named, including the inlets to the Finger Lakes, and Seneca River and the barge canal.

Elevation varies from 381 feet above sea level at the north end of Cayuga Lake, to approximately 2400 feet in Steuben County.

Much of the northern two-thirds of the region consists of cultivated or abandoned farm-lands, and vineyards are common along several of the lakes. Reforestation projects are being carried out on abandoned lands by the Conservation Department and cooperating individuals. The southern third of the area contains much more forested acreage.

With the exception of the extreme southwestern corner, and the eastern portion of Cayuga County, Region Three is well covered by a series of bird clubs.

The Eaton Bird Club, with headquarters at Geneva, covers an area bounded on the north by Route 31 from the Seneca River to Palmyra, on the west from Palmyra south along the west side of Canandaigua Lake, on the south by the Ontario-Yates County Line, continuing east from a point opposite Long Point on Seneca Lake through Ovid to west shore of Cayuga, and the eastern boundary is the center of Cayuga Lake north along the east band of the Seneca River to Route 31. Principal areas covered by the club are the contained bodies of water, the Montezuma Refuge, Castle Creek, Cook's Woods, Mile Point, Glenwood and Washington Street Cemeteries, Border City Swamp, all in or near Geneva; and the Pine Plains region north and east of Geneva, as well as the area adjoining the Sampson Air Force Base and Seneca Ordnance Depot, the south end of Canandaigua Lake and the Clifton Springs area.

The Keuka Park Conservation Club covers regularly an area entirely surrounding Keuka Lake and Lamoka Lake, and extending in a narrow strip north-east to Seneca Lake. Less regularly the Club covers the area of Yates County north and west of Penn Yan to the Ontario County Line. The highest point is Italy Hill, at 2030 feet. There is little swampy area in the region, forest is mostly second growth beech, maple and hemlock with a few small stands of white and red pine, and some oak and hickory on the dry ridges. There is an area of about 10 acres of virgin forest in the Jubertown Swamp.

The Chemung Valley Audubon Society, with headquarters at Elmira, covers Chemung County and the eastern portion of Steuben County. The chief points of interest are the Chemung Valley, 7 acre pond near Millport, the Horseheads Marsh, ponds at Big Flats, hemlock forest on hills in the area, a marsh west of Corning, and the Catlin area. The highest point is Quackenbush Hill, a little over 1800 feet.

The Watkins Montour Bird Club covers an area on either side of the southern end of Seneca Lake, with boundaries pretty much the same as those of Schuyler County. The Watkins Glen Gorge is the most outstanding feature of this area, which also includes smaller gorges and Catherine's Creek.

Ithaca is the headquarters of the Cayuga Bird Club, the Cornell Field Ornithology Club, the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell and the recently-organized Dryden Bird Club is at nearby Dryden. These groups cover the entire Cayuga Lake Basin, Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and all of Tompkins County. The favorite ,interesting areas for bird life include the Fuertes Sanctuary and the Hog Hole at the head of the lake, Sapsucker Woods, Larch Meadows, Ringwood Preserve, Spencer Marsh, Michigan Hollow and Danby Beaver Pond, Connecticut Hill and Taughannock Gorge. Good observation points for waterfowl on the Lake include, on the east side: Myers Point, King Ferry, Aurora Bay, Levanna, Farley's and Cayuga; on the west side: the Hog Hole, Glenwood, Taughannock, Sheldrake and Canoga.

In addition to these clubs, one observer reports from Avoca. It would be well to have a club with headquarters at Hornell to cover Steuben County, and one at Auburn to cover the section between Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes.

April and May were, in general, cold, wet months in the Finger Lakes. A few pleasant days in the early part of April brought in some migrants ahead of schedule, but then migration seemed to be at a stand-still for a period, and by early May was running behind schedule. None of the area reporters noted any real waves, and reported that migration was "spotty". First nestings seemed slightly delayed, perhaps because of the cool wet weather.

We have succeeded in extending our coverage into the south-western corner of Steuben County, as Mr. William Groesbeck of Hornell will collect material from that area.

Observers in all sections of the Area agree that Alder Flycatchers have increased in numbers markedly while Bluebirds seem to be on the decrease.

LOONS — DUCKS: Fewer reports of Loons than usual. Horned Grebes were noted at Elmira, including a rather late one on May 15 (Fudge). A double-crested Cormorant was reported at Montezuma 5/2 (Walker). Great Blue Herons on Hornell Reservoir 4/20 (Groesbeck), 3 American Egrets at Montezuma 5/21 (Walker). Reports of Whistling Swan were more common, 1 at Hornell Reservoir 4/2 (Groesbeck), 7 at Goodale Lake near Homer 4/3 (Dunham); 1 imm. on Seneca Lake 4/4 (Bardeen) and 2 at Catlin 4/1 (Andrus). American Brant are turning up more regularly too, or perhaps being recognized more often. 4 near Geneva on Seneca 4/30 (Walker), a flock of 50 flying over Ithaca 5/14 (Jehl) and several reports of a single bird at s. end of Cayuga last two weeks in May. A Cornell Conservation class saw a Blue Goose 4/10 at Scipio.

The Elmira group reports Blue-winged Teal down in number this year. A flock of 100 White-winged Scoters was noteworthy on Keuka Lake, a mile south of Branchport 5/8 (Spiker) and smaller numbers were also reported on Cayuga 5/16 (McIlroy) and Hornell Reservoir 4/21 (Groesbeck).

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vultures were more numerous than in other years in Elmira area, in April and May. A Goshawk was seen at Montezuma 4/4 (Walker) and at Catlin 5/1 and 5/23 (L. Andrus); Red-shouldered Hawks nests with eggs were found near Ithaca on 4/18 and 4/20 (Meng); more Broadwings than usual were seen over Avoca 4/20 (Carter) and one was seen over South Hill, Ithaca 4/21

(Seeber). A late date for a Rough-legged Hawk is 5/29, near Ithaca (A. Fudge). Hazel Ellis Loomis reported a Golden Eagle over Pinnacle Hill, near Branchport on 5/25, an unusual spring report. Duck Hawk reports were few, one aver Elmira 5/31 (Fudge) and one at Potter Swamp (Mrs. J. Whitaker). Sparraw Hawks, which had been common all winter near Avaca, were reported as scarce in May (Carter).

Ruffed Grouse with 10 eggs near Ludlowville 5/9 (Green). Florida Gallinules were reparted at Mantezuma 4/11 (Rosche), and were seen 5/16 on Dryden Lake. The CVAS reports fewer Coot at Elmira this year.

The first Wilson's Snipe report of the year was 4/15, at East Hill airport (AAA and EGA). Upland Plover were reported at Dryden 4/2 (J. Janes), near Waterloo 4/30 (Walker) and near the village af Italy Hill 5/30 (Spiker).

Solitary Sandpiper, usually irregular at Harnell but this year 7 spent a week in early May (Groesbeck); 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were observed at Horseheads 5/26 (Welles).

Baneparte Gull reparts were scarce. None araund Elmira, but one on 5/1 at Salubria (Fudge), 1 at s. end Cayuga 4/4 (Simon).

2 Long-eared Owls were seen at Turner's Woods, Harseheads, 5/15 (Samson) and 2 Saw-whet Owls 5/15 on Sullivan's Mtn. (Manns).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Hummingbirds were rather late in arrival in Ithaca area. A small flock of Nighthawks was observed flying north aver Avaca 5/24 (Carter). Reparts of Red-bellied Woodpeckers are fewer, of Redheaded Woodpeckers are increasing, having been seen at Ithaca Yacht Club 5/1 (West), Back Road, Watkins Glen 5/5 (V. Smith), Turner's Woods, Horseheads 5/15 (Samson) and E. Lake Road, (Seneca) by Bardeen. On the other hand, Walker (Seneca Falls) did not find them in usual places he covers.

An Acadian Flycatcher was seen at Hornell 5/3 (Groesbeck), and Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported 5/30 at Catlin (Andrus) and on York Hill 5/31 (York).

A small calony af Purple Martins seems ta have become established in Elmira at last (Harvey). Tufted Titmice occur at several stations in Elmira now, and ane was reported at Dryden 5/3 (Dunham). Redbreasted Nuthatches were more comman at Elmira than usual. Reports at Ithaca were few. Brown Creepers were numeraus in Watkins Glen area until middle of April (Bardeen). A Carolina Wren "returned" to Waodward Cottage near Watkins Glen on 5/16. Waves of Golden-crowned Kinglets passed through Watkins area 5/30 and 5/31 (H. Garnsey). Brown Thrashers are reported as being more common this year around Avoca (Carter).

Veeries seem dawn in numbers in Ithaca-Dryden area (Kelsey, Hoyt).

More stations are reporting Blue Gray Gnatcatchers each year. 2 were seen at Harnell 5/6, first in experience of Mr. Groesbeck. Guthrie reports them increasing around Keuka. One was seen at Dryden 4/24 (Dunham), and the pair returned to old station at Canal Area, Watkins, completed a nest, then deserted it.

A Pipit was found dead 4/3 at Trumansburg (K. Andrew). Waxwings are scarcer in the Watkins Glen area (Welles).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: All Vireos seemed low in number in Watkins area (Bardeen). Fewer Blueheaded Vireos around Dryden this year (Kelsey). No reports at Ithaca of Philadelphia, one at Waterloo 4/30 (Walker). A White-eyed Vireo, rare in the Finger Lakes, was seen 5/9 and 5/15 at a marsh near Horseheads (A. Fudge).

There were no outstanding Warbler waves in Watkins area or in Ithaca, but birds came through on schedule. First flocks around Avoca were naticed 4/29, including Myrtles and Black-throated Greens (Carter). A small wave, more noticeable for species than numbers, was noted at Avaca an 5/25.

Prathonotary Warbler at Ithaca 5/15 (New).

Three stations reported Worm-eating Warblers this year — the first one in ten years at Keuka Park (Mrs. J. Whitaker) an 5/4; at York Hill, Elmira 5/13, and at Avoca 5/14.

Prof. Guthrie reparts Golden-winged Warblers somewhat more common this year around Keuka Park. Blue-winged Warblers are well established at Michigan Hollow, s. e. of Ithaca. Parula Warbler, which is very irreg. at Hornell, was seen 5/3 (Graesbeck). **A Yellow-throated Warbler, extremely rare at Ithaca,** was seen singing for several hours behind the Conservation Bldg. on Carnell campus 5/24 (Hewitt). A Prairie, alsa irregular, was observed singing 5/29 at Varna (Gibbs). A Kentucky Warbler was at Renwick at Ithaca 5/16 (Rosche et al). Prof. Guthrie reports Yellow-breasted Chats increasing in number in Keuka area. A pair, presumably

the same, returned to Bardeen farm near Burdett for 6th year on 5/14. Mourning Warbler 5/4 at Keuka Park (Mrs. J. Whitaker) and 5/30 Potter Woods (Spiker). Wilson's Warbler, usually uncommon, at Bardeen Farm 5/19, and at Horseheads 5/15 (A. Fudge). Canada Warbler, also uncommon, was reported at Strathmont (Burr).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: **An Orchard Oriole,** which many years isn't seen at Ithaca, was reported 5/24 by K. Thorp. Cardinals, which did not occur at Avoca 10 years ago, are now well established there (Carter). 3 day old Cardinals in nest, at Ithaca 5/2 (AAA). Indigo Buntings seemed late in arrival at Keuka 5/16 (Guthrie) and at Hornell 5/19 (Groesbeck).

Tree Sparrows left Avoca 4/24 (Carter). White throated Sparrows were at Avoca 4/20 to 5/26, and another rather late Whitethroat lingered on York Hill, Elmira until 5/27. Mrs. Carter had a flock of 14 White-crowned Sparrows 4/30 to 5/14, with one bird remaining until 5/23. The only report of a Lincoln's Sparrow was from Horseheads Marsh (Fudge) on 5/9.

Mrs. Southgate Y. Hoyt, Aviana, Etna, N. Y.

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

The weather has been somewhat colder and rainier during April and May than usual, although not as wet as the same period last year. Wood Pewees, Chimney Swifts and the main wave of Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers have been quite late, perhaps as a consequence of the weather but otherwise the migration has been close to normal.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loons were seen regularly at Deposit up until May 16 and a Red-throated Loon was reported from the same place May 8 and again May 23 (Wilson). Five Common Loons were seen at Norwich April 28 (R. White). No Loons around Binghamton as usual. The last Horned Grebes were seen at Binghamton April 26 and at Deposit April 29.

An adult Little Blue Heron was seen April 8 at Lippincott Marsh, 1½ mi. south of Halsey Valley in Tioga Co. by Stuart Free and Bob Folker and reported to Dr. Kellogg at Cornell. It is most unusual to find the adult bird this far north.

A Brant was seen at Deposit May 8 (Wilson).

Last Baldpates were two at Boland's Marsh near Binghamton April 29. Also reported from Boland's Marsh; a Garwall April 3 and three Shovellers April 19 (Sheffields) and a Ruddy Duck April 17 (Layman).

The last Buffleheads were 5 at Deposit April 23 and the last Old Squaws April 27 (Wilson). A pair of late American Mergansers were seen near Corbett in Delaware Co. May 30 (Sheffields).

HAWKS — OWLS: Hawks have been very low in numbers in the Binghamton area. Not a single live Broad-winged Hawk was reported, but a dead one was found near Endicott May 16 (Washburn). Numbers have been more normal around Deposit.

Herring Gulls left Deposit April 20 and Ring-billed Gulls left May 4 (Wilson). Bonaparte's Gulls seen in small numbers at Deposit, Whitney Point and Norwich from April 7 to April 25. Black Terns at Binghamton April 28 (Naturalists' Club) and Norwich May 12 (R. White).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Chimney Swifts arrived in Binghamton April 30 (Saunders) more than a week late. At Deposit May 2 and Norwich May 3. Nighthawks at Binghamton May 11 (Sheffields).

A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen at Ely Park in Binghamton May 1 (Nat. Club).

A Wood Pewee reported from Norwich May 2 (R. White). Otherwise Pewees have been very late. May 18 at Deposit, May 20 at Binghamton and May 23 at Bainbridge (E. J. Smith) and May 24 at Oxford (Mrs. A. Stratton). A few Olive-sided Flycatchers have been reported starting May 19 in Deposit (Wilson) and May 28 at Binghamton (Bemont, Fessenden and Washburn).

A late Brown Creeper was reported from Norwich May 30 (R. White).

Blue-grey Gnatcatchers have increased noticeably around Binghamton this year and two were reported from Bainbridge April 13 (E. J. Smith). Wilson reports Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in Deposit.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Blue-headed Vireos have been more common than usual in Binghamton this spring. First seen April 28 (Nat. Club), at Deposit April 20 (Wilson). Yellow-throated Vireos were at Bainbridge May 2 (E. J. Smith). A

Philadelphia Vireo at Binghamton May 14 (Bemont, Fessenden). The first Warbling Vireo at Oxford May 1 (Stratton).

Warblers have been about normal in numbers, although more spread out than usual with few spectacular waves. The main wave of Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers didn't show up until the last few days of May which is a little late even for them. Pine Warblers were uncommon and late. Parulas, Golden-wings, Tennessee, Blackburnians and Chats were up in numbers. Cape Mays, Black-throated Greens and Canadas were down in numbers from last year.

Some dates: Worm-eating May 5 (Marsi), Golden-winged May 1 (Marsi), Orange-crowned May 11 (Bemont, Fessenden), Parula and Cape May April 28 (Bemont), Chat May 2 (Nat. Club) all at Binghamton. Nashville and Louisiana Waterthrush April 20, Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian April 24 and Wilson's May 24 all at Deposit (Wilson). Redstart May 1 and Mourning Warbler May 22 at Norwich (R. White).

For the second year in a row a Brewster's Warbler was found on the Naturalists' Club's Spring Census. This year by the Sheffields May 16.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: The first Bobolinks arrived at Deposit May 2 (Wilson). Baltimore Orioles descended on the whole area May 1. Binghamton, Deposit, Norwich, Oxford and Bainbridge all report their first one on that date. The last Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Deposit April 11 (Wilson).

Scarlet Tanagers arrived at Binghamton May 1 (Sheffields) and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Deposit May 2 (Wilsan).

White-crowned Sparrows were first seen at Deposit May 1 (Wilson) and were last seen in both Binghamton and Deposit May 16.

Leslie E. Bemont, R. D. No. 3, Binghamton, N. Y.

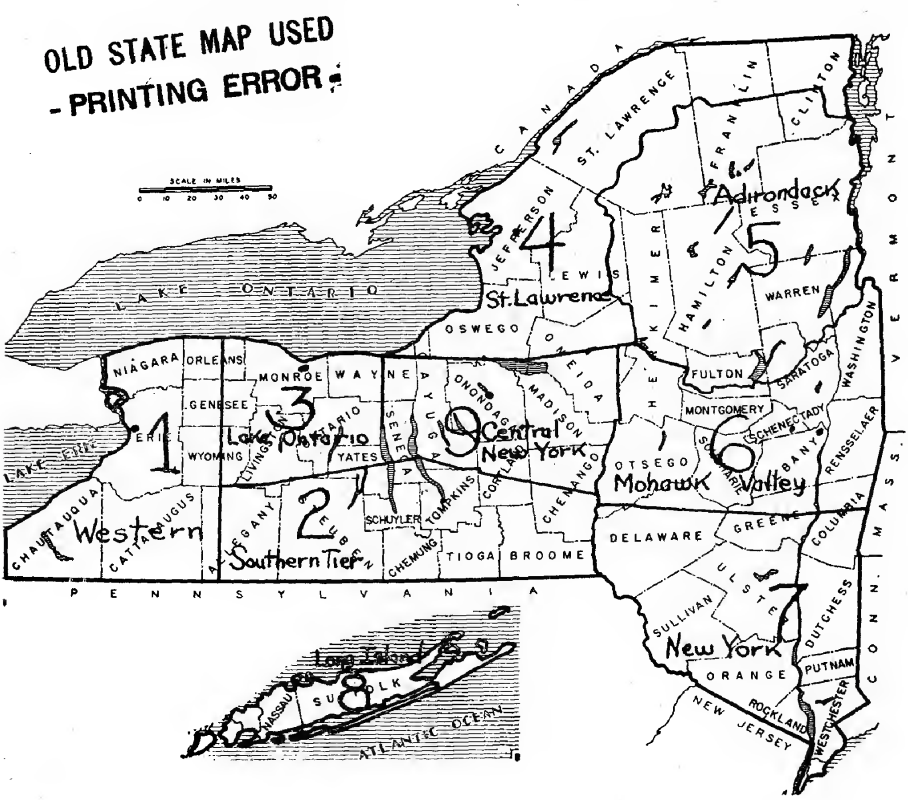
REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

April began with 5 inches of March snow still present and remained until April 6, after which a 5 day warm spell ensued. Mid-April turned cool again and mostly cluody. The end of April saw an extremely hot spell, which accelerated leaf growth tremendously and proved a severe handicap throughout May. The first few days of May were hot and muggy; this period was broken on the 3rd by a violent cloudburst (2½" rain in 2 hours). The next nine days were consistently cold and cloudy with rain in the morning, clearing in the afternoon, and cool and cloudy or raining in the evening. May 13-19 was warm and fair, but the next five days were cool and cloudy. The last week in May had cool, clear weather with Memorial Day weekend very hot.

The spring migration was notable primarily for the absence of any pronounced waves (small waves occurred an 4/29, 5/2, 5, 9, 17 & 27) and the consequent law counts of warblers, thrushes, and vireos, all of which trickled through the Region. The big wave of late migrants and females of earlier migrants, which usually occurs in the last 5 days of May, was not observed this year; instead, only small and sporadic counts could be tabulated. Despite the low counts, good variety was present and widely so.

LOONS — DUCKS: Common Loon — first date on 4/11, peak on 4/18 when 73 (singles and small groups) were seen flying northwest over Lake Ontario. Red-necked Grebe — 1 at Oneida Lake on 4/12 (E. Evans, F. Schneider). Horned Grebes hit their peak (36) on 4/25, while Pied-billed Grebes reached their (20) on 4/15. Great Blue Herons — 4 nests in a flooded swamp just south of Labrador Pond on 5/26. Whistling Swan — high count of 16 on 4/4 on Oneida Lake; last date was 2 on 4/8, also at Oneida Lake. Canada Goose — one of the best flights of any bird this spring; high count of 4000 on 4/15 at Mud Lake just west of Baldwinsville; 6 still present there at end of period. Brant — 17 on 5/16 at Sandy Pond (W. Minor, M. Wrangell, M. Rush); still present there on 5/30 (E. Evans, F. Scheider). Snow Goose — 5 on 4/4 at Brewerton, Oneida Lake (E. Evans); present for about 3 days. Green-winged Teal — 28 on 4/13 at Three Rivers Game Management Area is the high count for this spring. Shoveller — although common just to the west of us, this bird is a rare spring transient here — 8 on 4/17 at Cross Lake. Ring-necked Duck — last date, 1 on 5/23 at Oneida Lake. Canvasback — high count of 775 on 4/12 at Muskrat Bay, Oneida Lake. Greater Scaup, Golden Eye, American and Red-breasted Merganser — as usual all lingered in small numbers

REPORTING REGIONS



through May on Lakes Oneida and Ontario. White-winged Scoter — 1 dead male at Sandy Pond on 4/25. Ruddy Duck — 2 spring records of this uncommon transcient — 3 males, 1 female on 5/2 at Oneida Lake; 2 males on 5/16 on Mud Lake.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture reports increasing, particularly northwest of Syracuse. Sharp-shinned Hawk — flight passed through 4/9 - 4/30 with peak on 4/18. Red-tailed Hawk — 18 young banded by Dr. B. P. Burtt of Syracuse, who also banded 2 Red-shouldered Hawks and 10 Sparrow Hawks this spring. Rough-legged Hawk — last date was a light phase bird on 5/2 at Bridgeport (E. Evans, M. Wrangell). Duck Hawk — 1 adult on 4/12 at Hitchcock Point, Oneida Lake, (E. Evans, F. Scheider). Pigeon Hawk — 1 female on 4/25 at Sandy Pond (W. Minor, H. F. Flamm); 1 on same date at Oneida (fide P. R. Pacquette). Virginia Rail — not reported until early May, which is about 10 days late. Sora — first date is 1 on 4/17 at Syracuse. Semipalmated Plover — first date, 2 on 5/9 at Sandy Pond; not reported again until 5/30 at the same place. Piping Plover — 1 on 4/25 at Sandy Pond (Minor, Flamm, Scheider); have looked for it there unsuccessfully several times since that date. Killdeer had young out by 5/13. Ruddy Turnstone — peak of 50 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond. Black Bellied Plover — 29 on 5/30 at Selkirk. Snipe were late by three weeks and considerably reduced in numbers as compared to previous springs. Upland Plover — first date on 4/23 along N. Y. Thruway; peak of numbers was 4/25 - 5/5. Pectoral Sandpiper — 1 on 4/13 at Oneida Lake; scarce through the remainder of the spring. Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings normal in dates, but reduced in total numbers. Glaucous Gull

— last reported on 4/18 — 1 second-year bird at Oswego, where a first-year Iceland was also seen on the same date; these birds may have stayed later, but could not be checked on. Great Black-backed Gulls — 6 immatures still present at Sandy Pond Inlet at end of period. Caspian Tern — high count of 12 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond Inlet. Yellow-billed Cuckoo — first date, 5/12; Black-billed Cuckoo — first date 5/7; both cuckoos were down in numbers as compared to last year. Snowy Owl — last date, 1 on 4/20 at Baldwinsville (C. Farnham). Short-eared Owl — though its fall and winter pattern paralleled the Rough-legged Hawk, it left considerably earlier — last date, 1 on 4/7 at Oneida Lake.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Nighthawks were over a week late (probably because of the cool and wet May). Red-headed Woodpeckers — first date on 5/2 at Colosse (V. P. Mathises), with a scattering of records (Syracuse, Oswego) in the second week of May as the only indication of a peak. Crested Flycatcher — 1 on 4/28 at Fayetteville, first date; peak numbers did not come through until the third week in May. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher — 3 reports this spring, 1 on 5/23 at Selkirk as the earliest. Alder Flycatcher — 2 birds on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation; this remarkably early date is probably the result of the hot spell at the end of April; the next record is 2 weeks later — 1 on 5/16. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows both at nest holes in the wind-carved dunes at Sandy Pond on 5/30. Cliff Swallow — 2 colonies reported — 1 on 5/26 just south of Labrador Pond; 1 on 5/30 at Sandy Pond Corners. Red-breasted Nuthatch — very sparse flight this spring; first date on 4/19 (1) with peak in first week of May; 1 still at Labrador Pond on 5/23. Brown Creeper — peak date was 20 on 4/12 at Oneida Lake. Winter Wren — 14 on 4/25 at Sandy Pond is our highest spring count in several years. Carolina Wren — 1 on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation; 1 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley; 1 on 5/16 at Three Rivers Game Management Area; later in May, 2 birds were intermittently seen in Clark's Reservation. Three reports of this southern bird in one season is indicative of the recent invasion of northern areas by Southern species. Mockingbird — 1 on 5/30 at Oneida (fide Pacquette). Wood Thrush — peak dates at Syracuse, 5/5 - 5/15. Hermit Thrush — migration was quite late and prolonged with the spring high count at Syracuse on 5/1. Olive-backed Thrush — first date, 2 on 5/3 at Syracuse, but not common until the last week of May. Gray-cheeked Thrush — 1 on 5/27 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse (F. Scheider). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (more of the southern element) 3 reports this spring with 2 on 4/22 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse the earliest. Golden-crowned Kinglet — tremendous wave through Syracuse on 4/9-10; last date 4/25 at Syracuse; 1 was seen on 5/16 (a very late date) in the Forestry Experiment Station at Syracuse. Ruby-crowned Kinglet — high counts (as many as 50 in 1 hour's walk), primarily in the first week of May; last date, 2 on 5/24 at Syracuse. Pipit — late date, 2 on 5/2 at Selkirk (E. Evans). Northern Shrike — last date, 1 adult on 4/4 at Oneida Lake. Loggerhead Shrike — 2 spring records, both in mid-April from western Oswego County.

VIREOS — FRINGILLIDS: Blue-headed Vireo — unaccountably scarce this spring, but W. R. Spofford reports them as common on 5/1 at Big Moose. Red-eyed Vireo — peak of flight did not come until the last week in May, surprisingly late. Philadelphia Vireo — first date, 1 on 5/12 at Westernville (Mrs. F. W. May); present (1 each day) 5/18, 24, 27 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse (F. Scheider). Warbling Vireo — first date, 1 on 4/28 at Clark's Reservation; birds widely present by 5/9.

Warblers: Prothonotary — first date, 5 on 5/13 at Short Point Bay, Oneida Lake (E. Evans); nest (with 3 eggs) in a low, water-surrounded tree stub on 5/22 at same place. Worm-eating — 1 on 5/22 at Selkirk (E. Evans). Golden-winged — as the range of coverage grows, the reports also rise — 5 more probable breeding sites were found this spring, mostly in southern Oswego County. Blue-winged — 1 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley (M. Wrangell, F. Scheider); bird was continuously present until last date of checking (5/23). Tennessee — first report, 1 on 5/13 at Syracuse; peak 5/16-22. Orange-crowned — 1 on 5/27, Syracuse (Scheider); 1 on same date at Selkirk (E. Evans). Nashville — good flight but no noticeable flocks. Yellow — first date, 4/22 at Fayetteville; extremely common 5/1-4. Cape May — normal dates, but very poor numbers; highest count was only 20 on 5/16 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse. Myrtle — first date, 4/9, 2 at Syracuse; very poor

numbers through Syracuse area, but good counts from along Lake Ontario. Cerulean — 5 on 5/9 at Camillus Valley; by 5/23 the number there was up to 15. Blackburnian — peak came very early, 35 on 5/2 at Clark's Reservation. Yellow-throated — 1 singing bird was studied for 25 minutes on 4/30 at Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; observer (F. Scheider) close enough (10') to note that eye-line was all white, hence probably **"albilora".** Bay-breasted and Black-poll — normal first dates (5/9 and 5/17, respectively), but numbers sharply reduced. Pine — 1 on 4/9 at Syracuse constitutes an earliest **recorded** date. Palm — small wave of these on 5/6 at Syracuse. Louisiana Waterthrush — very sporadic in this area as far as locations go; Camillus Valley and Green Lakes State Park are the only two areas which regularly produced them this spring. Connecticut — 1 singing male on 5/16 along the Salmon River, east of Pulaski (E. Evans). Yellow-throat — first reported on 4/22 at Syracuse. Chat — 1 on 5/30 at Oneida is our first report in several years. Hooded — singing males at three different localities (Green Lakes, Selkirk, Camillus Valley) in late May. Wilson's — peak date seemed to be 3 on 5/27, Syracuse.

Red-winged Blackbird — big flight of females through the area in second week of April. Rusty Blackbird — first date for migrants, 3 on 3/4 at Westernville; still present on 5/16 at Scott Swamp, Phoenix. Indigo Bunting — 2 (1 had highly pied plumage of gray, brown, and blue) on 5/5 at Syracuse. Purple Finch — poor spring flight with high counts falling between 4/15 - 5/7. Pine Siskin — 1 on 4/17 at Cleveland; 2 on 5/16 at Three Rivers G. M. A. White-winged Crossbill — 2 females on 4/22 at Labrador Pond (W. R. Spofford). Vesper and Savannah Sparrows — first arrivals in first week of April, but peak 4/12-20. Slatecolored Junco — last date was 1 on 5/23 at Oneida (P. R. Pacquette). Tree Sparrow — sharp drop off in second week of April with last date, 1 on 4/22 at Westernville. Chipping Sparrow — great numbers passing through in the first week in May; high count, 85 in 1 hour in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, on 5/3. White-crowned Sparrows passed through rapidly (5/2 - 5/14) and in only moderate numbers (25 peak day). White-throated Sparrows — 6 locality records on 4/20 indicate the first wave; main flight was 4/20 - 5/10; 1 still present on 5/31. Fox Sparrow — **very** poor flight; low in numbers and short in duration. Lincoln's Sparrow — 1 on 5/16, Sandy Pond (Minor, Flamm, et al.); 1 each on 5/27, 28 at Syracuse. Lapland Longspur — 4 in spring plumage on 4/3 at Toad Harbor, North Shore, Oneida Lake.

Fritz Scheider, 151 Seventh North St., Syracuse 8, N. Y.

REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LOONS — DUCKS: About 60 Common Loons at Henderson Harbor April 15; Redhead and Canvasback Ducks at Point Peninsula April 8; Shoveller April 9 and Baldpate April 4.

HAWKS — OWLS: Sora Rail May 14; Wilson's Snipe one on April 18; Osprey May 25; Upland Plover, several reports indicating they are holding their own (J. Wilson) and perhaps increasing in some areas (Kelknop); Black-billed Cuckoo May 29; Snowy Owl seen May 18 and 30; Nighthawk May 14.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Red-headed Woodpecker first seen May 23, about as many reports as usual; Crested Flycatcher May 2; Olive-sided Flycatcher May 31; Barn Swallow and male Purple Martin May 2; Brown Thrasher April 25, appeared more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen).

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Warbling Vireo May 2 at Lowville (Bowen); Myrtle Warbler April 25 at Lowville (Bowen); Canada and Black-throated Green Warblers May 29; Magnolia and Chestnut-sided Warblers May 31.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Rusty Blackbird more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen); Field Sparrow more numerous than a few years ago at Lowville (Bowen), April 25; Indigo Bunting May 20.

Frank A. Clinch, 183 Park Avenue, Watertown, N. Y.

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK

Both April and May were cold and wet in the Adirondack region. The snowstorm which struck the central Adirondacks on March 30th continued through April 3rd and established the extraordinary temperatures of 11, 15 and 10 degrees below zero on April 3, 4 and 5 at Saranac Lake. Over in the Champlain valley, only some 40 miles east but more than 1000 feet lower, low temperature of the month was 28 degrees. This weather caused great hardship for many species. Road shoulders were crowded with Robins, Song Sparrow, Goldfinches, etc.; many were killed by cars, seemingly too weak to get out of the way. On April 3 Killdeers were seeking food on the main road through Trudeau Sanatorium amid traffic and within 20 feet of main buildings. However, the ice went out of the lakes about April 18th. In late April and early May the water run-off was heavy and streams and lakes became unusually high. Lake Champlain water line about 10 feet higher than usual. May was one of the coldest and rainiest for many years. The average minimum daily temperature at Saranac Lake was only 30.2 degrees. A phenomenon of note is the extremely heavy hatch of tent caterpillars throughout the Adirondacks this year with very extensive defoliation in many areas. So far there have not been reports of any unusual numbers of cuckoos.

LOONS — DUCKS: Loons appeared (April 14) at Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake almost simultaneously with the break-up of ice in the lakes (April 18). An unusual record was a **Horned Grebe** in Racquette River near Tupper Lake, April 15 to 20. **Canada Geese** moved through the Champlain Valley to as late as May 24 (Leo Provost). (A belated report has been received of the successful nesting of Canada Geese with three goslings at Cedar Lake, Hamilton County in 1953 (G. T. C.). Another report of **Brant** in Lake Piseco near the end of May (G. T. Chase). Dr. Kingsbury supplies an interesting record of **Green-winged Teal** at Tupper Lake April 12 to May 1. This is an uncommon duck in Adirondacks. The **Ring-neck Duck** appears to again be starting off for a good nest year in central Adirondacks.

HAWKS — OWLS: **Goshawk** has been reported nesting near De Bar Mt. (G. T. C.), Racquette Lake and Big Moose Lake (W. Spofford). The cold, damp spring gives concern for the success of **Ruffed Grouse** nestings. Eaton (1909) did not list the Virginia Rail for Franklin or Hamilton counties and doubted if it bred in the Adirondack region. Either it has extended its range or previously was overlooked for each year I now receive reports of this species in marshy areas (e. g., in flooded beaver meadows) around Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake. (G. T. C. at Two Bridge Brook and Cold Brook, Essex County). Neither did Eaton (1909) list the **Florida Gallinule** for Essex Co. but said it was a "neglected species" in the Hudson-Champlain valley and undoubtedly nested in all large marshes in the state. This is probably true, certainly along Lake Champlain, and a definite record is a bird found dead near Essex May 6 (Marion Mason). The number of singing **Woodcock** "on territory' in Saranac Lake-Lake Placid region is normal (G. T. C.). **Wilson's Snipe** also "on territory" at Wilmington (G. T. C.) and Tupper Lake (M. K.) from mid April on. Three **Yellow-legs** (? sp.) seen April 28 at Tupper Lake (M. K.) is a rather uncommon record. No **Cuckoos** yet reported despite the heavy tent caterpillar infestation.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The birder in the Adirondacks can readily find all the resident flycatchers of our state except the Acadian. **Wood-Pewee** and **Olive-sided Flycatcher,** arriving this year May 28-30 in all areas, signalled the end of migration. **Carolina Wren** was seen by M. C. Mason in 1952. The same species appeared again at her feeder at Essex on April 24. **Brown Thrasher** appeared April 23 at Keeseville (T. Lesperance) and later at Essex but records for interior valleys are lacking. **Cedar Waxwings** were late in arriving in numbers, May 29 - June 1 at Tupper Lake (Agnes Amstutz) and Saranac Lake.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: **Philadelphia Vireo** seen May 30 at Tupper Lake (A. A.). We need careful observing to determine if this species remains to breed in the Adirondacks. The first heavy warbler wave came May 2-3, another May 18-19. Lesperance at Keeseville says he has never seen as heavy a flight of warblers as occurred this May along Lake Champlain. Two reports of **Yellow-breasted Chat** came from Wilmington (G. T. C.) and Crown Point (Lucien Lambert). These are exceptional records and it will be interesting to see if the species is establishing itself this far north.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: It is the impression of Meade (Saranac Lake) and Lambert (Crown Point) that **Baltimore Oriole** is definitely present in greater numbers this spring. One can speculate that this may be correlated with the

caterpillar plague. **Evening Grosbeaks** have remained again in Saranac Lake-Tupper Lake area through May and probably are breeding as in the past several years. A not frequent record for the northern New York area is that of a **Towhee** near Keeseville on April 29 (T. L.). Several observers have commented on the smaller numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** in Adirondacks this spring.

Gordon M. Meade, Trudeau, N. Y.

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

The spring of 1954 was in general cool and wet. Beginning with a snowstorm in early April, the season continued generally slow through May. Large waves of migrants were almost completely lacking, and by far the greater proportion of the birds arrived late, although a few individuals of most species arrived at nearly the normal date. Several flocks of Brant were seen on May 8, indicating an unusual flight. Otherwise, there were few unusual records, and migration was dispersed over a long period. Nesting too appeared to be slow, with many resident pairs arriving late.

LOONS — DUCKS: Numbers of loons and grebes were poor, with only one record of Horned Grebe, none of Loons or Holboell's Grebe. Two American Egrets seen on May 27 at Hudson (Madison) indicate continued northward movement of this species. Waterfowl, however, were present in good numbers, with the Brant, noted above, representing the most interesting occurrence. Flocks were observed on the same day at three widely separated points, indicating a general movement into the area on that day. Fourteen Whistling Swans appeared at Vischer's Ponds on April 14 (Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Foote). Canada Geese were seen in good numbers, and large flocks of Mallards, Blacks, Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Scaup and Goldeneye were reported through March and early April.

HAWKS — OWLS: A Turkey Vulture was seen at Karner on May 30 (SBC trip). This species is now seen almost every year. Madison recorded a Bald Eagle at Selkirk (Albany Co.) on May 27. Pigeon Hawks were seen on several occasions in early April. No reports were received of Broad-winged Hawks. A White-rumped Sandpiper was seen at Vischer's Ponds on May 31 (Hallenbeck). Turrentine and Stone saw four Bonaparte's Gulls and nine Common Terns on the Mohawk River on April 17.

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: Pileated Woodpeckers are becoming more common, with records from several counties, including some seen in villages. Least Flycatchers seem unusually common. Wood Pewees arrived rather late, the earliest record at hand being May 23. Swallows are present in usual numbers. The local colonies of Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins are again occupied. A Tufted Titmouse at Cohoes in early April indicated continued northward invasion of this species. Thrushes were generally late and scanty in numbers. Olive-backed and Gray-cheeked were reported May 16 and 25 respectively. Two spring records of the Pipit March 7 (SBC trip) and May 23 (French) are unusual occurrences.

WARBLERS — SPARROWS: Warblers continued to migrate well into June. Indeed, the first movements of appreciable numbers of Blackpolls and Tennessees did not occur until nearly June 1. The Worm-eating Warbler is again present at Indian Ladder. Both Pine and Prairie Warblers were present in the pine barrens into mid-June, evidently breeding, with the latter being by far the more common. Nothing of special interest was noted with regard to blackbirds and sparrows. Purple Finches, abundant during the winter, have continued in some numbers into the spring season, and are evidently nesting in several localities. Evening Grosbeaks were last seen in early April.

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REGION 9 — HUDSON - DELAWARE

April was warmer and drier than usual; May, chillier and wetter. Marked waves of migrants reached the area in the latter part of April, a week to ten days ahead of time. Birding in the normal range of the peak migration in May was correspondingly poor.

LOONS — DUCKS: In Rockland County, the usually common herons were all scarce this spring. However, other sections report no notable change, and the Rockland situation may be local.

A Horned Grebe remained rather late at Congers Lake, Rockland County, to Apr. 25 (Deed). The Snow Goose was recorded for the first time in Rockland County, a flock of eight flying over New City on Apr. 18 (Mrs. John M. Price). A Brant stopped at Piermont Pier on May 15 for the third Rockland record (Thomas Dow, David Hill). A late date for American Widgeon at Congers Lake, Apr. 24 (Deed).

The great find — or great mystery — of the spring in the Rockland-Orange area was a supposed Barrow's Golden-eye at Lake Tiorati, Bear Mountain Park, on a Rockland Audubon Society field trip Apr. 25. On that date, and other days through Apr. 29, the bird was studied at close range through binoculars and telescope, and was observed in flight, too. John C. Orth, Palisades Interstate Park naturalist, studied skins and consulted with staff at the American Museum of Natural History. Everyone who saw the bird was satisfied that it was an immature drake changing belatedly into breeding plumage — yet the place and date are fantastic. Of course, the fantastic occurs oftener these days.

HAWKS — OWLS: No outstanding hawk flight was reported. On Apr. 28, a male Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying an English Sparrow flew into the side of a building in Bedford Hills (Mrs. William Grierson), and on May 18 an adult male Cooper's Hawk was killed when it hit a picture window in Mt. Kisco, also in Westchester County (John Trainer).

Rails continued their strong comeback. A Virginia Rail, seldom reported in Ulster County, was seen on May 2 near Lomontville by Mrs. Henry Dunbar. The Sora appeared again at Tallman Mountain, Piermont, in Rockland County on May 2.

In Ulster County, the Black-billed Cuckoo arrived on May 6 at Kripplebush (Fred N. Hough), but the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not recorded until May 22 at Kingston (Mrs. Dunbar) and May 23 at New Paltz (Dr. Robert Pyle). A Whip-poor-will arrived early, Apr. 19, at Kripplebush (Hough) and at Mohonk Apr. 21 (Daniel Smiley).

SWIFTS — SHRIKES: The Red-headed Woodpecker continues to make a stand in Orange County. Mr. and Mrs. Hammond of the Sullivan County Audubon Society watched one at Cuddebackville, in Orange, on May 15. This species is regarded as uncommon in Ulster County, but birds were seen on May 9 at Whiteport (Dr. Arthur Cragin, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar, Hough) and on May 11 near Mohonk (Dr. Pyle).

An early date for the Least Flycatcher in Rockland County was Apr. 20 (Homer S. Kelsey). The Cliff Swallow was early at Ashokan Reservoir on Apr. 24 (Hough) and Purple Martin at Hurley, Ulster County, on May 1. A Rough-winged swallow was found shot in Bedford Hills, Westchester, on Apr. 11 by Don Reynolds.

The Tufted Titmouse is now recorded regularly in the New Paltz area of Ulster, and another record for the west side of the Shawangunk ridge was listed by Fred Hough at Kripplebush on Apr. 26. Red-breasted Nuthatches are reported on Apr. 20 at Katonah, Westchester (Stanley O. Grierson) and May 13 at Lake Kitchawan, in the same region (Helen and Arthur Weeks). Spring records for the Carolina Wren in Ulster County are reported.

A Mockingbird turned up in Monticello, Sullivan County, on May 16 (Edward McBride). The Mockingbird in New City, Rockland, left the Frank Steffens home on Apr. 14. All spring, a Catbird in partial albino state attracted attention at the feeding station of Mrs. Anne Comas in South Somers, near Bedford. It had white head and tail, white mottling on wings and back, pink feet, red-brown eyes.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered in the Whiteport area of Ulster County until May 9 (Dunbar, Hough). Cedar Waxwings were very scarce in Ulster this spring, but two Migrant Shrikes were seen near Stone Ridge on Apr. 2 (Hough).

Rockland County enjoyed its second occurrence on record of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, May 17 near New City (Mrs. Frank Steffens). It turned out that there was a pair of birds with a nest practically completed on that date, and incubation under way a week later.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Many early dates were recorded in Rockland County: Yellow-throated Vireo, two weeks early on Apr. 21 (Kelsey); Blue-headed Vireo, equalling the early date of Apr. 18 (Mrs. Steffens); Lawrence's Warbler, May 1 (Dr. Marjorie R. Hopper); Yellow Warbler, Apr. 21 (Mrs. Steffens); Black-throated Green Warbler, ten days early on Apr. 18 (Mr. and Mrs. Steffens); Prairie Warbler, May 1 (Deed); Ovenbird, two weeks early on Apr. 10, Rockland Audubon Society field trip; Yellow-breasted Chat, May 2 (RAS trip); Hooded Warbler, May 2 (RAS trip).

Rare finds in Rockland included the second and third records of the Prothonotary Warbler, Apr. 19 to Apr. 22 at Congers Lake (Mrs. Steffens) and May 3 at the Lamont Sanctuary (Eugene R. Brown), and the third and fourth records of the Cerulean Warbler, Apr. 27 at New City (Mrs. Steffens) and Apr. 29 at the Lamont Sanctuary (Mrs. William G. Irving). Lawrence's Warblers were seen several times, and a Brewster's on May 5 at Valley Cottage (Dr. Hopper).

In Westchester, the Louisiana Water-thrush arrived Apr. 10 at Katonah (William Russell) and Apr. 11 at Pound Ridge (Stanley Grierson).

In Ulster, the Nashville Warbler was rather early, Apr. 26, at Kripplebush (Hough); the Parula Warbler was more numerous than usual; the Blackburnian Warbler was early, Apr. 23, at Mohonk (Smiley); and the Louisiana Water-thrush was very early, Apr. 7, at Lomontville (Henry Dunbar).

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Orchard Oriole reached Stone Ridge, Ulster, on May 12 (Hough). The Cardinal is apparently expanding its breeding range to the Kripplebush area this season (Hough). Purple Finches were scarce in Ulster this season. A very early date for Indigo Buntin gis Apr. 30 near Nyack (Dow, Hill).

The Dickcissel at Katonah, Westchester, reported in the April Kingbird, was last seen on Apr. 15 (Mrs. William Grierson), a full adult male by that time. And the Black-headed Grosbeak that had arrived at the Grierson feeding station on Feb. 26 left the feeding station on Apr. 24. It was seen once later, nearby, on May 15.

The Vesper Sparrow arrived Apr. 15 in Ulster at New Paltz (Dr. Pyle) and Apr. 19 in Westchester at Katonah (Stanley Grierson). Henslow's Sparrow was recorded Apr. 19 at New Paltz (Dr. Pyle) and Apr. 21 at Kripplebush (Hough). The last Tree Sparrow at Mohonk was on Apr. 14 (Smiley). White-crowned Sparrows were seen in Ulster from May 3 to May 25 (Hough).

Robert F. Deed, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

REGION 10 — LONG ISLAND

Spring-like weather in mid-February brought early flocks of Red-wings and Grackles. No severe freezing weather came later to deter migration. April species arrived on time, with some few individuals appearing early. The land bird migration proved excellent in the aggregate although it took numerous observers to present the entire picture. For example, John Bull, Jr. of Far Rockaway, remarks that there were practically no Kinglets or early Warblers in this usually fertile flyway, although excellent flights were recorded late in May. This proves the attracting value of the magnificent chestnut oaks in his area, after they had burst into leaf.

An infiltration in early May and several fairly good waves in the latter half of the month made up a large part of the warbler migration. Robert S. Arbib, Jr., of Freeport, reported a flight of several hundred small migrants in Woodmere woods, May 2, mostly Myrtle and Parula Warblers. A large flight of Bay-breasted Warblers, with a maximum of about 50, was reported by John Mayer and George Rose on May 22. More than usual numbers of this species were also reported from other areas on the same day, along with fair numbers of Wilson's Warblers.

Among water-birds, there was no spectacular flight of loons or grebes. Gannets passed northward off Long Island in mid-April. Differing from last year there were few early rarities reported among shore birds such as phalaropes and godwits. Terns and skimmers appeared in goodly numbers on their nesting grounds at Short Beach. Red-backed Sandpipers lingered into mid-May in breeding plumage. There was a large flight of Black-bellied Plovers and Knots coming through on western Long Island on June 1, but by June 12 migration was about over.

LOONS — DUCKS: Few reports on lingering Grebes and Loons; one Red-throated Loon, Oyster Bay, April 21. There were eight Sooty Shearwaters off Moriches Inlet, May 29. A White Pelican, first discovered at Brookhaven and later at Moriches, may have been the same bird that stayed at Mill Neck for over a year, leaving there last winter. Three European Cormorants at Jones Beach (with white flanks noted) in flock of Double-crested Cormorants. First Snowy Egret, Broad Channel, April 17; a Cattle Egret appeared at East Moriches, May 17 and remained 10 days (Mrs. J. Lukert, R. Wilcox). Up to 300 Brant remained through May, with one albino seen at Merrick, May 15. Canada Geese came through around April 1, with 300 flying over East Williston. Six Snow Geese were seen on the short side of the V-formation of 50 Canada Geese near the lead bird over Jones Beach pond, March 26 (J. Elliott).

There were several European Teal spring records: Jones Beach, Patchogue, Bald-

win. The Blue-winged Teal showed up in mid-March, with an increase into April. Practically all species of ducks left on time, or a little early. Perhaps, because of the greatly disturbed ocean bottom in last November's storm, the hundreds of thousands of Scaters, present in April for the last few years off the South Shore, were lacking. The Ring-necked Duck was present in goodly numbers on many fresh water pands.

HAWKS — OWLS: The Turkey Vulture was seen on several accasions; and a Black Vulture was identified at Water Mill, May 16 (G. Raynor). The first Osprey was seen at Nassau Point, March 20, according to incoming records, and very few Duck and Pigeon Hawks were reparted.

There were several reports of King Rail, with two at Mill Neck, May 1 (Lyman Langdon Auduban Society). A Black Rail was flushed from a Jones Beach marsh, April 10 (Mayer, Rose); Florida Gallinule is back in the Lawrence marsh, probably breeding. No Oyster-catcher reports. Piping Plover arrived at Shinnecock, March 11, two (I. Alperin); 12 at Jones Beach, March 20 (Baldwin Bird Club). An Upland Plover was recorded at Syosset, May 8 and two at Westbury in late May. Eight Willets were reparted aff Amityville, May 9 (H. Darraw). Pectoral Sandpiper showed up at Jones Beach, April 10 and Curlew Sandpiper was back again on Jamaica Bay, May 15. The Red-backed Sandpiper flock at Jones Inlet, May 15, contained 150 in breeding plumage.

On May 30 from Hewlett Bay to Oceanside 6,000 Black-bellied Plovers and 800 Knot were reported. There were several Bonaparte Gull records in mid-May, two or three Roseate Terns and three Black Terns were seen at Shart Beach in latter May.

Both Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoo reports were rather meager. Several Barn Owl recards came fram western Long Island; the Snowy Owl left early, and there are na recent reports of Lang-eared or Great Horned Owls which are resident species.

SWIFTS — WARBLERS: Chimney Swifts were quite numerous from their arrival in April; first Whip-poor-will, Prospect Park, April 8. Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Forest Park, May 22; and Sapsucker was noted at Manorville, April 4. Five Yellaw-bellied Flycatchers were seen in Far Rackaway in late May (Bull).

First Rough-winged Swallow, Jones Beach, April 10; three Barn Swallows, Garden City, April 9. The Cliff Swallow was rare, four at Mill Neck, May 15 (Raynor). Gnatcatchers were regularly reported from first arrival at Prospect Park, April 8 to May 22. There were practically no records of Carolina Wren on western Long Island. The Ruby-crawned Kinglet put in an appearance around April 9, and one or two Migrant Shrikes were seen on eastern Long Island in April. At least four Prothonotary Warblers were abserved, three in April: Glen Cove, Babylon and Mill Neck, and ane in Brooklyn, May 2. The first Worm-eating Warbler was observed at Quoque, April 17; Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at Mill Neck, April 24 and ane at Praspect Park, Braoklyn, April 25. Louisiana Water-Thrush arrived at Prospect Park, April 7, and one at Mill Neck, April 10.

A Lawrence's Warbler was seen at Woodmere, May 22 and practically all the scarcer warblers — including Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted and Hooded — were recorded in western Long Island, Central Park and Van Cortlandt Park; and in several instances both Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers were numerous.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Red-wings were unusually common fram early spring when at Wantagh, March 6, 400 flew in to roost in the Phragmites along Wantagh Causeway. The Orchard Oriole was reported at Far Rockaway, May 15, and May 31 at Seaford. A Black-headed Grosbeak, wintering at Idlewild, and changing into spring plumage, was identified as this western species on March 28. A maximum of Indigo Buntings was reported May 8 and 9.

The American Goldfinch was abundant this spring at Seaford and Williston Park, with an estimated 1,000 at the latter April 25. A sparrow flight of Chipping, Field and Fox came thraugh March 27 and 28; and a fair spring flight of Ipswich Sparrows in late March, early April, but the Vesper Sparrow's coastal flight was meager. There was only one spring record for Siskin ,this at Jones Beach; and the Golden-crowned Sparrow left in April from its location near the Jones Beach East Bathhouse where wintering from January. The White-crowned Sparrows arrived in Riis Park, May 8 and there were several records of later arrivals elsewhere. The White-throated Sparrow was scarce in May, especially in the city parks.

John J. Elliott, 3994 Park Avenue, Seaford, Long Island, New York.

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